ABSOLUTE
SUPERMAN
DC
ALL IN
13+ TEEN
11
AARON
DI GIANDOMENICO
ARREOLA

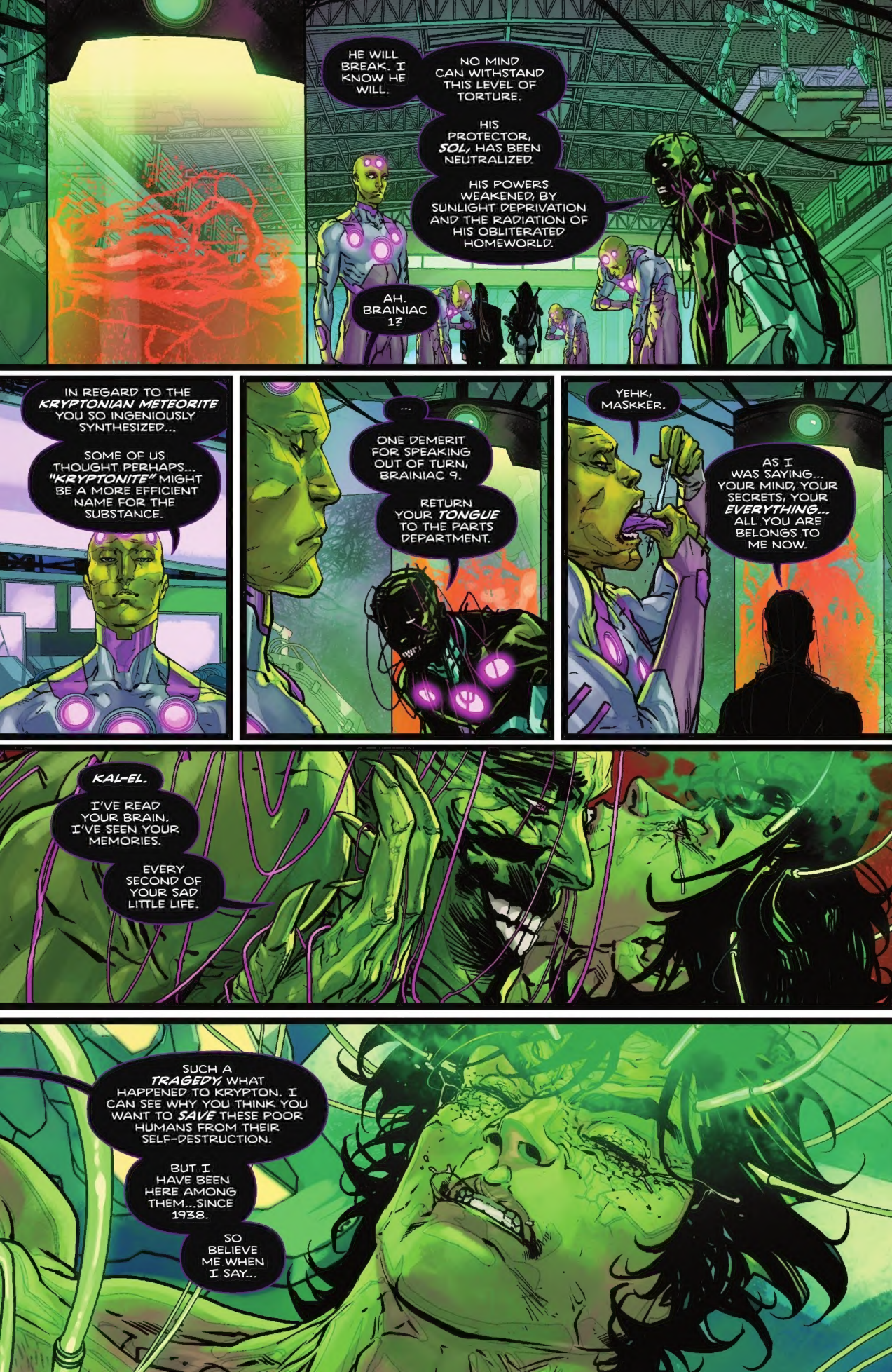
OUT OF GOTHAM.
NOT OUT OF BULLETS.
RED HOOD
© & ™ DC.
WRITTEN BY
GRETCHEN
FELKER-MARTIN
ART AND COVER BY
JEFF SPOKES
JASON TODD STARS IN THE IN-CONTINUITY,
MATURE READERS SERIES YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR
17+
MONTHLY
STARTING IN
SEPTEMBER
ALL IN

"FOR THE CRIME OF AMBITION, WE FIND THE ELS...GUILTY.
"FOR THE CRIME OF THIRD-DEGREE DISSENT, WE FIND THE ELS...GUILTY.
FOR THE CRIME OF ILLEGAL USE OF SCIENCE, WE FIND THE ELS... GUILTY.
HGGHK!
STOP IT! YOU'RE KILLING THEM!
JOR-EL AND LARA-EL HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY BY A SIMULATED JURY OF THEIR PEERS...
...AND THEY ARE HEREBY SENTENCED TO HANG FROM THE SKIES ABOVE KANDOR FOR A HUNDRED YEARS.
NO... PLEASE...
NOW, AS FOR YOUR CRIMES, KAL-EL OF THE REDLANDS...
FOR THE MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE OF BEING AN ORPHAN...
...THE SCIENCE LEAGUE HEREBY SENTENCES YOU TO TWENTY YEARS CONFINEMENT IN THE PHANTOM ZONE ORPHANAGE.

OFFICERS OF THE LAW GUILD. TAKE HIM AWAY.
KRYPTON IS GOING TO *DIE!* BUT THERE'S STILL TIME TO SAVE THE PEOPLE! THAT'S WHAT MY PARENTS WERE TRYING TO DO!
BLASPHEMY! ADD ANOTHER FIVE YEARS TO HIS SENTENCE!
GAGH, WHY WON'T YOU *LISTEN?* YOU...YOU...
TO HELL WITH YOU!
AAAIIRRRGGGH!
"TELL ME YOU'RE MAKING *PROGRESS.*
"BEAUTIFUL, *BLOOD-DRENCHED* PROGRESS."

GREENLAND.
LAZARUS CORP RESEARCH FACILITY.
PROJECT: SON OF THE DEMON--DAY ONE.
OH, INDEED, DIRECTOR AL GHUL, SIR.
SUPERMAN HAS JUST MENTALLY MURDERED THE ENTIRE RULING CLASS OF HIS HOME PLANET.
FOR THE 575TH TIME IN THE LAST SIX HOURS.
ONCE WE'VE REACHED 3,000, I BELIEVE HE'LL BE READY TO MOVE TO THE EARTHLY PHASE OF HIS... REBIRTH.
SEE THAT HE IS, BRAINIAC. I EXPECT BETTER RESULTS THAN WHAT YOU DELIVERED WITH THE PEACEMAKER, SMITH.
DISAPPOINT ME AGAIN AND THERE WILL BE REPERCUSSIONS.
OF COURSE. I SERVE AT YOUR LEISURE.
I SERVE AT YOUR LEISURE.
I SERVE AT YOUR LEISURE.
I SERVE AT YOUR LEISURE.

BY THE OMEGA, I DESPISE THESE THINGS.
I WANT MY SON, SUPERMAN, DELIVERED TO ME INTACT, BRAINIAC.
NOT REDUCED TO SOME LOBOTOMIZED DRONE, LIKE THESE CLONES OF YOURS.
YES, OF COURSE. THE SON OF THE DEMON SHALL ARISE, I ASSURE YOU.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE THE BOY SEE THE TRUTH.
I AM THE TRUTH.
IF SUPERMAN WISHES TO SAVE THIS WORLD FROM RUIN...ITS PATH TO SALVATION LIES THROUGH RA'S AL GHUL.
HEED THE WORDS OF HE WHO SPEAKS FOR THE OMEGA, YOU WRETCHED, LEGLESS FREAK.
FAIL THE LORD OF LAZARUS AGAIN...
...AND I WILL FEED YOUR MARROW TO THE FATHER BOX.
SUPERMAN WILL BE THE WRATH OF THE AL GHULS MADE FLESH, LADY TALIA. YOU HAVE MY WORD. ALL I ASK...
...IS THAT YOU KEEP THAT BOX AWAY FROM ME.
COME, DAUGHTER. LEAVE THE PSYCHOPATH TO WORK IN PEACE.


HE WILL BREAK. I KNOW HE WILL.
NO MIND CAN WITHSTAND THIS LEVEL OF TORTURE.
HIS PROTECTOR, SOL, HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED.
HIS POWERS WEAKENED, BY SUNLIGHT DEPRIVATION AND THE RADIATION OF HIS OBLITERATED HOMEWORLD.
AH. BRAINIAC 13?
IN REGARD TO THE KRYPTONIAN METEORITE YOU SO INGENIOUSLY SYNTHESIZED...
SOME OF US THOUGHT PERHAPS... "KRYPTONITE" MIGHT BE A MORE EFFICIENT NAME FOR THE SUBSTANCE.
...
ONE DEMERIT FOR SPEAKING OUT OF TURN, BRAINIAC 9.
RETURN YOUR TONGUE TO THE PARTS DEPARTMENT.
YEHK, MASKKER.
AS I WAS SAYING... YOUR MIND, YOUR SECRETS, YOUR EVERYTHING... ALL YOU ARE BELONGS TO ME NOW.
KAL-EL.
I'VE READ YOUR BRAIN. I'VE SEEN YOUR MEMORIES.
EVERY SECOND OF YOUR SAD LITTLE LIFE.
SUCH A TRAGEDY, WHAT HAPPENED TO KRYPTON. I CAN SEE WHY YOU THINK YOU WANT TO SAVE THESE POOR HUMANS FROM THEIR SELF-DESTRUCTION.
BUT I HAVE BEEN HERE AMONG THEM...SINCE 1938.
SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY...

"...ONCE YOU'VE LET YOURSELF KILL A *FEW MILLION* OF THE HAPLESS SACKS OF ENTRAILS...
"...YOU'LL SEE...
"...THAT'S EXACTLY THE SORT OF HELP THESE PEOPLE *DESERVE*."

KRAKK
HHRN!
ARE YOU BORED YET, PRIMUS? I SURE AM. YOU COME TO OUR CELL EVERY HOUR JUST TO KICK US AROUND?
EITHER MAKE A FAIR FIGHT OF IT, OR KILL US AND GET IT OVER WITH.
SHE DOESN'T SPEAK FOR THE BOTH OF US.
OH, REST ASSURED, LANE, YOU WILL DIE IN THIS PLACE. YOU AND OLSEN BOTH.
BUT NOT BY MY HAND.
UUNGH!
WHAT THE HELL, PRIMUS?!
AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE SEEN, ALL THE ATROCITIES LAZARUS CORP'S COMMITTED, HOW COULD YOU BETRAY THE OMEGA MEN?!
DON'T YOU SEE, JIMMY? THE OMEGA MEN AND LAZARUS WERE ALWAYS TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN. IT'S ALL BEEN A LIE.
THE ONLY TRUTH IN THIS WORLD, LITTLE LAMB...IS THAT EVERYTHING IS A LIE.
ALL LIFE IS CORRUPTED, IN ITS VERY ATOMS. LEFT UNTENDED, HUMANITY WILL CONSUME ITSELF AND EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES.
ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN SURVIVAL AND APOCALYPSE...
...IS THE HAND OF THE UNDYING SHEPHERD OF MAN...MY HOLY FATHER, RA'S AL GHUL.

WOULD-BE DESPOTS WITH GOD ON THEIR SIDE. HOW ORIGINAL.
YOU WANT THE RICH GETTING RICHER, THE POOR GETTING ANGRIER, UNTIL THE WHOLE SYSTEM EXPLODES. STARTING A WAR THAT NOBODY WINS.
NOBODY BUT THE AL GHULS, THAT IS.
YES, I WILL STAND AT MY FATHER'S SIDE AS WE FORGE A NEW WORLD FROM THE SLAG OF THE OLD.
A WORLD OF ORDER AND MERIT, WITH RESOURCES AND PURPOSE FOR ALL.
ONCE WE'VE THINNED THE HERD BY A FEW USELESS BILLIONS.
BUT I AM NOT TO BE MY FATHER'S INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE.
THE SUPERMAN SHALL LEAD THE WAY.
AS WE SPEAK, BRAINIAC IS DRAGGING HIM BRAIN-FIRST DOWN THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS.
SOON THAT SWEET LITTLE CHILD OF SMALLVILLE WILL TURN THIS PLANET RED.
THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW STRONG HE IS.
OH, BELIEVE ME, I KNOW HIM BETTER THAN YOU EVER WILL. THE FATHER BOX TELLS ME EVERYTHING.
SUPERMAN HAS A BREAKING POINT, JUST LIKE ANYONE. AND ONCE HE'S REACHED IT... YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELF, MS. LANE.
FOR HIS FINAL TEST...WILL BE TO KILL YOU BOTH.

DAY FIVE.
STATUS REPORT!
PHASE THREE PROCEEDING. IN THE LAST HOUR, SUBJECT HAS EXPERIENCED HIMSELF SLAYING 8,577 PEACEMAKERS.
INITIATE PHASE FOUR.
NO!
GET OUT OF MY MIND!
SECURE THE PATIENT! MORE KRYPTONITE RESTRAINTS!
HGGGHK!
YOU CANNOT STOP. WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU, KAL-EL. YOUR REBIRTH... HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
YOU SAID... YOU KILLED MILLIONS.
I HAVE. ON THIS WORLD, AND MANY OTHERS.
AND WHEN I AM DONE... SO WILL YOU.
NO, BRAINIAC. NOT MILLIONS.
JUST YOU.
HWRRHK!

NO...
WHAT AM I...
UUUNGH!
THIS IS...BY THE RAYS OF RAO...
THIS IS *NOT* WHO I AM.
HELP ME.
I SEE THE WAY HE TREATS YOU. YOU'RE A *PRISONERS* HERE JUST LIKE ME.
YOU DESERVE BETTER. YOU DESERVE *LIBERTY.*
TOGETHER WE CAN...
GAIRRGH!
THE PAIN! STABBING INTO MY MIND! WHAT IS--
END PROGRAM!

DID YOU HEAR ME?! I SAID END THE PROGRAM! NOW!
HE SHOULD'VE KILLED ME WITHOUT THINKING!
CHECK THE CODE! YOU IDIOTS MUST HAVE BOTCHED SOMETHING!
APOLOGIES, BRAINIAC 1, BUT WE DID EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO YOUR--
I SAID CHECK IT AGAIN!
YES, BRAINIAC 1.
NO, YOU DO IT, 5! YOU DO IT!
BRAINIAC 7, ONE DEMERIT! REMOVE YOUR LEFT EYE!
YES, BRAINIAC 1.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KILL ME, YOU MORON!
DO YOU HEAR ME IN THERE?! I'M THE ONE WITH HIS KNIVES IN YOUR BRAIN, TEARING YOU APART! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
KILL ME!

DAY TWELVE.
SIR, BRAINIAC 5 REGRETS TO INFORM YOU THAT SUBJECT SUPERMAN...HAS STILL NOT PROGRESSED PAST PHASE FOUR.
I AM SURROUNDED BY INCOMPETENCE.
WHAT? WHAT IS THIS?
WHY ARE THE SOL CRYSTALS ACTIVE?
THEIR CONTAINMENT HAS BEEN DISABLED! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!
WE DESERVE LIBERTY.
WHO SAID THAT?!
WHICH ONE OF YOU UNGRATEFUL TRAITORS SAID THAT?!
SPEAK UP! OR YOU'LL ALL BE LABELED REFUSE!
I DID.
I SAID IT.
NO, IT WAS ME. I SAID IT.
IT WAS ME. I SAID IT.
I SEE.
ONE DEMERIT... FOR EACH OF YOU.

DAY FOURTEEN.
SOMEHOW... INEXPLICABLY... SUBJECT SUPERMAN REFUSES TO PROGRESS.
HE IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING HOUR 500 OF WATCHING HELPLESSLY AS I CHAINSAW MY WAY THROUGH THE CLONES.
AFTER REVIEWING SECURITY FOOTAGE, I DISCOVERED...HE'D BEEN SECRETLY COMMUNICATING WITH THEM DURING THE NIGHT...
...SPEAKING SO SUPER-HUMANLY SOFT... THEIR BRAINS ONLY REGISTERED THE SOUND ON A SUBCONSCIOUS LEVEL.
A MAN WHO REWRITES HARDWIRING WITH HIS WHISPERS.
AND INSPIRES REBELLION IN A PACK OF WALKING TOASTERS.
IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO PILLAGE THE BRAIN OF A BEING SUCH AS THIS.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING... BUT HE *WILL* PROGRESS. I PROMISE YOU.
NO MATTER... *WHO* HAS TO DIE.

GOOD TO SEE YOU LANDED IN A CUSHY SPOT, PRIVATE TUCKER. LONG WAY FROM KAHNDAQ.
ALL THOSE EXCESSIVE FORCE COMPLAINTS DON'T SEEM TO HAVE HELD YOU BACK.
YES, SIR, GENERAL LANE. IF YOU'LL JUST STEP THROUGH HERE.
BEEEEP
SORRY, SIR, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO DO A SECONDARY SECURITY CHECK.
SURE, BOYS, I KNOW THE DRILL. IT'S THESE DAMN PROSTHETICS, YOU KNOW?
GET ME A CHAIR, WILL YOU, TUCKER, SO I CAN TAKE MY LEGS OFF.
GENERAL, I'M NOT SEEING AN APPOINTMENT IN OUR RECORDS. WHY DID YOU SAY YOU WERE HERE AGAIN?
AH, YOU KNOW HOW THE STORY GOES, SON.
THE THINGS A MAN WILL DO FOR HIS FAMILY.
LOOK OUT, HE'S GOT A--

OLSEN, YOU *HEAR* THAT?
I TOLD YOU, I HAVE IRRITABLE BOWELS. I CAN'T STOP--
NO. *GUNSHOTS.*
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING OUT THERE. BE READY.
ZZZKT
ZZKT
DAD?!
FOURTEEN GUARDS ON THIS FLOOR. TWO EXITS. SOUTHEAST LOOKS TO BE THE LEAST DEFENDED.
I'LL TAKE POINT. LOIS, YOU COVER THE REAR.
YES, SIR, GENERAL. DAD...
SAVE IT FOR WHEN WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO DIE.
IS THERE, UH, A GUN FOR ME TOO?
PLEASE TELL ME THIS TALKING *MATCHSTICK* AIN'T THE REASON YOU GOT YOURSELF LOCKED UP.
THIS GUY? OH, GOD NO. BUT HE IS COMING WITH US.
HUMAN SHIELD. GOT IT. GOOD IDEA.
WAIT, WHO THE WHAT NOW?
WE CAN'T LEAVE YET, DAD.
WE GOTTA, HONEY. THESE PEACEMAKERS WON'T LET UP. I OUGHTA KNOW, I *TRAINED* 'EM.
THERE'S *SOMEONE ELSE* HERE.

"SOMEONE WE HAVE TO SAVE."
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HIM! HE'S JUST A CHILD!
YOU LAZARUS GOONS GET THE HELL OFF MY--
GUUGH!
JONATHAN!
STOP IT! LEAVE THE KENTS ALONE! THEY WERE ONLY TRYING TO HELP ME!
SUSPECT RESISTING DETAINMENT!
KAL-EL!
SON... PLEASE...
GO.
KAL-EL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU HAVE TO RUN!
NO! I DON'T!
NOT ANYMORE.
FWOOOOSH
AAAAAIRRRRGHH!

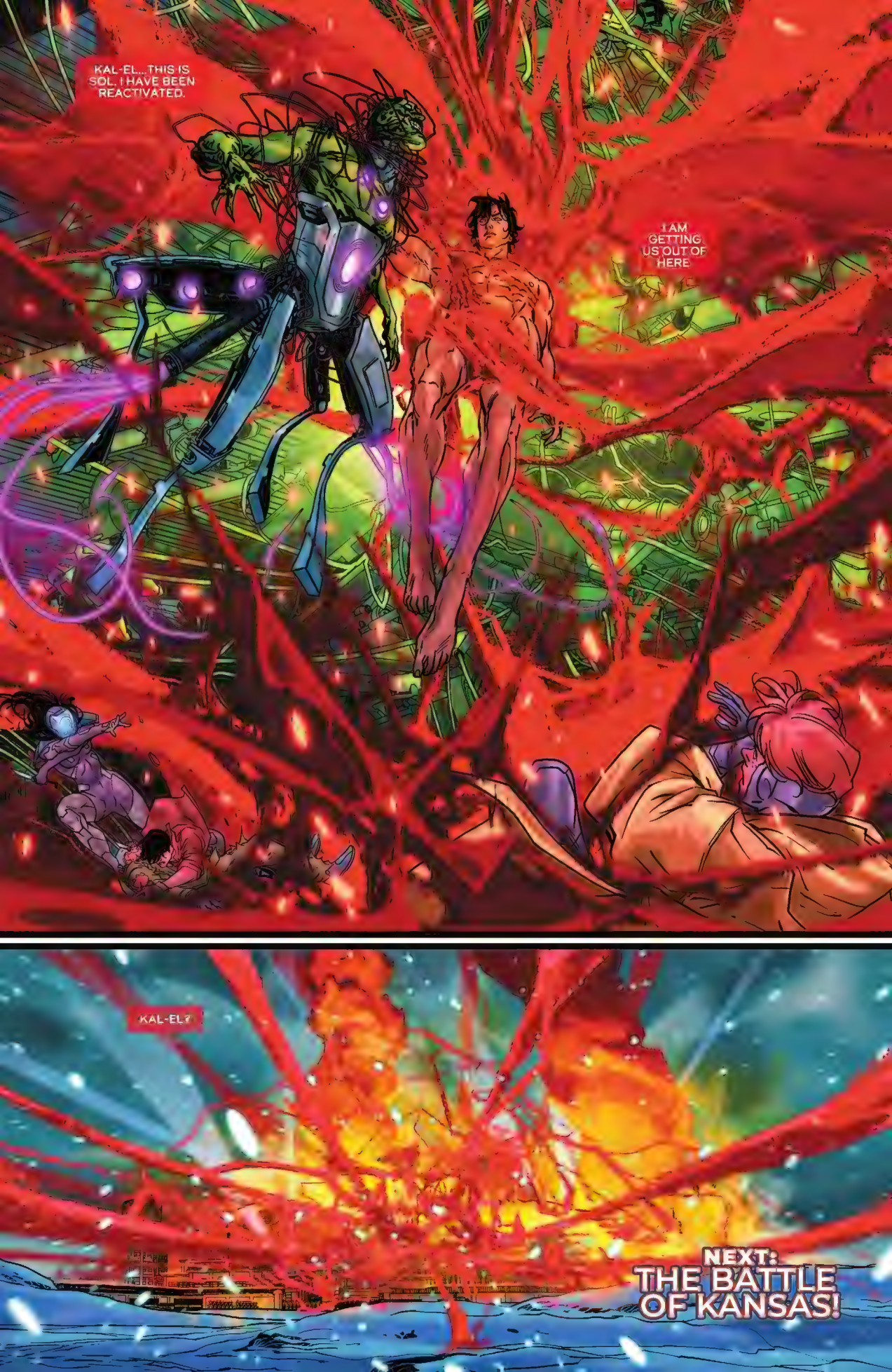
BRAVO, SUPERMAN! I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
YOU WERE SENT HERE FOR A REASON. TO SAVE THIS PLANET.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS. YOU SEE THAT NOW.
AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE ENDURED... YOU DESERVE THIS. TO FREE YOURSELF LIKE THIS.
YOU DESERVE LIBERTY, MY SON.
NOW... IT'S TIME TO GET TO...TO, AH...
GHHT!
BOOOOOM
SUPERMAN! THE OMEGA MEN ARE HERE TO SAVE YOU FROM LAZARUS! COME WITH US AND--
GWWHK...
KAL-EL!
ARE YOU...GOING TO KILL HER?
YOU'RE SO ANGRY, SON, I KNOW...
IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. JUST...LISTEN TO US NOW.

ZZZKT ZZKT
GAAGH!
GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU MANIAC!
HA, YOU'RE TOO LATE, LANE.
SUPERMAN?
HOW DO WE GET HIM OUTTA THIS?
ZZZKT ZZKT ZZZKT
WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, DO IT FAST!
THESE THINGS ARE IN HIS HEAD! WE CAN'T JUST...PULL THEM OUT! CAN WE?
WE HAVE TO!
LOIS.
NOT NOW, DAD, WE DON'T HAVE--
LOIS!

I CAN'T... FEEL MY LEGS.
DAD! NO!
I WANT THEM BACK IN THEIR CELLS!
ALIVE!
ALIVE-ISH IS FINE TOO!
DAD?!
OH, C'MON, PAL, PLEASE WAKE UP!
NO, HE'S MINE! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF SUPERMAN!
THAT ISN'T HIS NAME!
KAL-EL! WAKE UP!

KAL... THIS NEVER SHOULD'VE HAPPENED. NONE OF THIS.
WE SHOULD'VE BEEN *TOGETHER.* LAZARUS *TOOK* THAT FROM US.
THEY TOOK *YOU.*
WE WERE *WRONG* TO TELL YOU TO RUN.
THERE'S NO SAFE PLACE FOR YOU *ANYWHERE,* SON. NOT UNLESS YOU *FIGHT* FOR IT.
I'VE...BEEN *TRYING.* BUT EVERYONE KEEPS TELLING ME *WHO* I'M SUPPOSED TO BE... AND NO ONE LISTENS TO--
WE KNOW, KAL-EL. WE SEE YOU.
WE SEE IT ALL. SO BELIEVE US WHEN WE TELL YOU...
...WE'RE SO *PROUD* OF YOU.
AND WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE.
JUST KEEP DOING IT, SON.
"GET OUT THERE AND KILL THEM ALL."
GRRAOOARRGH!

HGGHK!
SAVE HIM!
SAVE... SUPERMAN.
TALIA... MARK MY WORDS...
I WILL KILL YOU FOR THIS.
KAL-EL? NO...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HEH. WHERE... DO YOU THINK YOU'RE...
GGHK...
KERKRRNCH


KAL-EL...THIS IS SOL. I HAVE BEEN REACTIVATED.
I AM GETTING US OUT OF HERE
KAL-EL?
NEXT:
THE BATTLE OF KANSAS!

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

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CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO *ARTIST*
ULISES ARREOLA *COLORIST*
BECCA CAREY *LETTERER*

RAFA SANDOVAL & ULISES ARREOLA *COVER*

JAE LEE & JUNE CHUNG, JEFF SPOKES, KARL KERSCHL *VARIANT COVERS*

SUPERMAN, SON OF THE DEMON

ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

FINALE

MAN OF STEEL, MIND OF ASH

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

RED HOOD
#1 PREVIEW
WRITER
GRETCHEN FELKER-MARTIN
ARTIST
JEFF SPOKES
LETTERER
BECCA CAREY
WHERE:
NEW ANGELIQUE
BAR
IT'S SO HOT HERE, EVEN AT NIGHT. THE AIR IS LIKE WARM SALIVA.
YOU GO TO BED SWEATING AND WAKE UP WITH THE SHEETS STUCK TO YOUR SKIN.
IT MAKES ME THINK OF APOCALYPSE NOW.
BRANDO WASHING HIS FACE IN THE HUMID DARKNESS OF THE TEMPLE.
AN OLD PLACE, SINKING BACK INTO THE SWAMP.

ROYALE.
RED HOOD. YOU LOOK ROUGH, CHER. BEEN SHAVING WITH GLASS AGAIN?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I APPRECIATE YOU COMING OUT. I KNOW THE CITY KEEPS YOU BUSY.
RECORDS FOR THE NAPD. I NEED THE FILES OF THE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE TOWER SHOOTINGS. DUTY LOGS. ANY ARREST REPORTS THEY WROTE. ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP ME FIND A PATTERN.
SHE AIN'T GOTHAM, CHER, BUT SHE HAS HER MOODS. WHAT YOU NEED?
C'EST FOU. THE BULLS HERE HOLD ONTO PAPERWORK LIKE IT'S THEIR BALLS. BUT FOR YOU, I CAN CALL IN A FAVOR.
MEET ME HERE TOMORROW. MIDNIGHT. I'LL GET YOUR FILES.

I FIRST MET ROYALE YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS DOWN HERE CHASING ARMS DEALERS SMUGGLING WEAPONS OVERSEAS TO SERBIA.
HE KNOWS THE CITY. KNOWS ITS PEOPLE.
HE KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE ITS PROBLEMS. I CAN TRUST HIM, I HOPE.
I'D ASK ORACLE TO GET ME THE INFORMATION I NEED, BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN GOTHAM...
...WE'RE NOT EXACTLY ON SPEAKING TERMS.

THERE YOU ARE...
...I WAS GETTING BORED.
HUNTRESS. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I HEARD YOU WERE PLAYING COPS AND ROBBERS. THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT COMPANY.
WHICH ONE OF THEM SENT YOU?
TO BE CONTINUED IN RED HOOD #1 ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER!
AGES 17+!

DESTINY ISN'T EASY.

C.O.R.T.
CHILDREN OF THE ROUND TABLE
Comics superstars TOM TAYLOR and DANIELE DI NICUOLO bring Arthurian adventure into the 21st century in an action-packed series for readers of any age.
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Six issues starting in
SEPTEMBER

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON ALL IN

RED HOOD

INTERVIEW WITH GRETCHEN FELKER-MARTIN

Get ready for a bold new chapter in the life of Jason Todd with *Red Hood*, DC's first-ever in-continuity mature-readers series. Writer Gretchen Felker-Martin teases what fans can expect from this raw, unflinching take on Red Hood, and the emotional chaos at the heart of Jason's journey.

With Jason out of Gotham and away from the Bat-Family, he finally feels fully unleashed. What does that freedom allow you to explore, and what made a mature-readers series the right way to tell this story?

For me, it's that Jason finally has a chance to stop reacting and start thinking. We'll get to see him reconstruct his own idea of right and wrong separate, for better and for worse, from the Bat-Family's code of ethics. I think it felt necessary to make the series mature-readers only because that process is going to result in Jason's violence being seen on the page for exactly what it is.

New Angelique has such a vivid, lived-in feel. What inspired the city, and how does it reflect Jason's journey?

Some big points of inspiration for me were the Louisiana-set horror drama *Eve's Bayou*, which is a favorite movie, and the new *Interview with the Vampire* series, which opens in New Orleans and really sells the beautiful, sweaty, decaying grandeur of the city at the turn of the century. I also think Louisiana, and New Orleans in particular, is the flashpoint for a lot of deeply painful and troubling modern political dynamics we're still watching play out.

What intrigued you about pairing Jason and Helena Bertinelli?

It's such a natural fit. They've both lived lives defined by bloodshed, they've both come a long way in how they relate to their own capacities for violence, and there's also a really personal edge to it for both of them, this shared self-definition by revenge and grievance. They're exactly the kind of people who are going to pull each other off-kilter in a dozen different ways.

Can you tease any new villains or threats Jason will face along the way?

I can tell you there's a telepath known as the Tower who's been orchestrating murder-suicides between police officers, and there's a very ugly cabal in local and federal law enforcement who have been using the people of New Angelique for their own ends. It's going to get pretty nasty.

Jeff Spokes brings so much grit and energy to the page. What's it been like building this world with him visually?

Jeff is such a pro, and he works just unbelievably quickly. He really got exactly what I wanted for the cityscape in particular. Every time I look at a new page, I see a hundred little things I never would have thought to mention but which make such total sense and really make New Angelique feel real, like somewhere you could smell and touch.

This series doesn't hold back, emotionally or physically. What kind of ride are you hoping to take readers on?

I'd like to give readers something sexy and rough-edged and hostile, and I want it to feel relevant to the painful, difficult world we're living in. I'd like to get back to the kind of feeling people got watching superheroes fight Hitler in the '40s, but in a more cathartically violent register.

DON'T MISS
RED HOOD,
ON SALE MONTHLY!

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